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Washington, D.C. 20505

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*File* *HAC* *88*

Comptroller  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

14 September 1988

Mr. John Plashal  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense, Staff  
House of Representatives  
Room H-144, Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear John,

Per our telephone conversation, enclosed  
is a copy of the DCI's letter on LANDSAT  
and SPOT imagery. Please let me know if  
you need anything further on this.

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Sincerely,

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Leo Hazlewood  
Comptroller

Enclosure:  
As stated

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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

10 August 1988

The Honorable Bill Chappell, Jr.  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to express my concern about language in the FY 1989 Defense Appropriation Bill which prohibits the use of Defense appropriations, except by the Defense Mapping Agency (DMA), to procure LANDSAT or SPOT imagery. Taken literally, Section 8087 of the Senate bill and Section 8102 of the House bill could be construed to also require, in the name of maximum price efficiency, that the Director of Central Intelligence acquire LANDSAT or SPOT imagery only through DMA. While I share your Committee's goal of acquiring imagery under the best possible terms, I am persuaded that if applied to the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency this measure will not provide savings, but will be disruptive to CIA operations. More importantly, it could significantly delay CIA's acquisition of critically important imagery in such areas as counternarcotics operations and analysis, which would interfere with my responsibility under Executive Order 12333 and the National Security Act of 1947 to provide senior policymakers with national foreign intelligence on a timely basis. Thus, I am requesting that the language of this proposed legislation be clarified to ensure that CIA will not be considered subject in any way to this blanket prohibition. [redacted]

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Over a period of many years, CIA has developed an extremely effective working relationship with the Eros Data Center (EDC), a US Government element attached to the Department of Commerce. As a result of our efforts during the past decade, EDC is able to:

- Respond quickly and efficiently to our needs for imagery on issues of high current and national interest.

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The Honorable Bill Chappell, Jr.

- Meet our often unique needs, routinely tailoring our special requirements, such as providing non-standard types of color prints.

Intelligence analysts communicate almost daily with EDC personnel to ensure that we will continue to receive immediate service, as we did, for example, during the Chernobyl' meltdown

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The CIA has been the beneficiary not only of EDC's ability and willingness to process our special requirements in a timely fashion, but also of its doing so without assessing us additional charges for this specialized service. I seriously question whether any savings would ensue from requiring CIA to process these imagery requirements via DMA. While DMA might be able to reduce any existing duplication of coverage of certain areas, each requesting agency or department still will require its own prints. No matter what arguably trivial savings would result, if any, time delays could prove very

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The Honorable Bill Chappell, Jr.

damaging. [REDACTED]  
SPOT [REDACTED]

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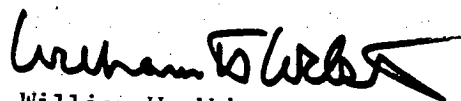
I request that you consider the potentially serious impact on our ability to obtain the kind of information we need from LANDSAT and SPOT if we are unable to continue to purchase imagery directly. I believe that upon reconsideration, you will recognize that CIA's requirements are unique, that they require constant attention and direct dealings between EDC and CIA personnel, and that, therefore, it needs to be made clear that the CIA is not subject to the blanket prohibition against acquisition of LANDSAT and SPOT imagery except by DMA. [REDACTED]

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I will be pleased to provide additional information as needed on this request. A copy of this letter has been sent to the Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense, Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate. [REDACTED]

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Sincerely yours,



William H. Webster  
Director of Central Intelligence